

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A well screen comprising:
a filter layer;
~~an~~ a cylindrical outer stand-off layer around the filter layer; and
a cover around the outer stand-off layer;
wherein the outer stand-off layer is arranged to space the cover from the filter layer and arranged to resist collapse of the cover towards the filter layer.
2. (Currently amended) A The well screen of claim 1 wherein the outer ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer is a skeletal mesh.
3. (Currently amended) A The well screen of claim 1 further comprising an inner ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer covered by the filter layer.
4. (Currently amended) A The well screen of claim 3 wherein the inner ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer is a skeletal mesh.
5. (Currently amended) A well screen comprising:
a filter layer;
a cylindrical skeletal layer around the filter layer; and
a cover around the skeletal layer;
wherein the skeletal layer is arranged to space ~~spaces~~ the cover from the filter layer.
6. (Original) A method of forming a standoff layer in a well screen comprising the steps of:
providing a pre-fabricated mesh;
wrapping the mesh around at least one underlying member of the well screen; and
connecting together the longitudinal edges of the mesh.
7. (Currently amended) A The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer is enclosed by a filter layer.
8. (Currently amended) A The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer encloses a filter layer.

9. (Currently amended) A well screen comprising:
a base pipe;
an inner ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer;
a filter layer covering the inner ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer;
~~an~~ a cylindrical outer standoff layer around the filter
layer; and

a cover around the outer ~~standoff~~ stand-off layer, the
outer stand-off layer spacing the filter layer from the cover.

10. (Currently amended) A well screen comprising:
a filter layer;
~~an~~ a cylindrical outer stand-off layer which provides a
cage for ~~and/or~~ and is of greater rigidity than the filter
layer; and

a cover around the outer stand-off layer, the outer
stand-off layer spacing the filter layer from the cover.